

**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**  
Tactical Training and Exercise Control Group  
Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center  
Twentynine Palms, California 92278-8104

**FIRE SUPPORT COORDINATION EXERCISES**

1. **LESSON TITLE.** FIRE SUPPORT COORDINATION EXERCISES

2. **TRAINING OBJECTIVES.** The purpose of the Fire Support Coordination Exercises (FSCEXs) is to provide company, battalion, and MAGTF level fires support training. Additionally, FSCEX II and FSCEX III provide the Exercise Force the opportunity to rehearse its operations orders for the deliberate attack and defense in sector phases of the Final Exercise (FINEX). Specific training objectives, tasks, conditions, purposes and standards for each exercise are included in the individual FSCEX lesson plans.

3. **ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS**

a. All FSCEXs are conducted as Tactical Exercises Without Troops (TEWTS). Depending upon the exercise conducted, participants will include company/team Fire support Teams (FiSTs), infantry battalion and MAGTF Fire Support Coordination Centers (FSCCs), indirect fire agencies, fixed-wing and rotary-wing aviation, and reconnaissance and surveillance teams.

b. Live indirect fires and aviation-delivered ordnance will be used during the FSCEXs. There will be no live direct fires during any of these exercises.

c. **Exercise Descriptions**

(1) **FSCEX I.** The FiST of each company/team conducts a movement to contact. Emphasis during this exercise is on company-level integration of close air support and indirect fires in support of ground maneuver. The infantry battalion FSCC provides support and coordination. This exercise is a practical application of the Supporting Arms Integration Course and FiST procedures Class, and builds on FiST training conducted during the Air Support coordination Exercises.

(2) **FSCEX II.** A rehearsal of the MAGTF's operations order for the deliberate attack phase of FINEX. This phase of FINEX typically consists of battalion deliberate breach and attack on an enemy strongpoint, a company-size helicopterborne operation, and the Light Armored Reconnaissance (LAR) company operating in a separate corridor.

(3) **FSCEX III.** A rehearsal of the MAGTF's operation order for the defense in sector phase of FINEX.

4. **ARTILLERY/FIRE SUPPORT.** Instructions for artillery/fire support during the FSCEXs are contained in the lesson plan for each exercise.

5. **AIR SUPPORT**. Instructions for air support during the FSCEXs are contained in the lesson plan for each exercise.

6. **SAFETY**. The Exercise Force is responsible for the safe conduct of all FSCEXs. A Range Safety Officer (RSO)/Laser Range Safety Officer (LRSO), who can have no other tactical duties as part of the Exercise Force, will be appointed. The RSO/LRSO will maintain positive communications with range control (BEARMAT) on frequency 49.85 at all times. In addition, he will maintain an internal exercise safety net on frequency 40.65. The RSO/LRSO will use the EXERCISE SAFETY NET to maintain positive communications with all road guards, firing agencies, and appropriate level COCs at all times. The RSO/LRSO will establish, control and monitor the EXERCISE SAFETY NET prior to and during the exercise, and until such time as the range is declared “cold” at exercise completion. If communications with BEARMAT are lost, the RSO/LRSO will immediately place all firing agencies into a CHECK FIRING status until communications with BEARMAT can be re-established. If communications with road guards, COC, or any firing agency is lost on the EXERCISE SAFETY NET, the RSO/LRSO will immediately place all firing agencies into a CHECK FIRING status until communications can be re-established.

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**FIRE SUPPORT COORDINATION EXERCISE I (FSCEX I)**

Ref: (a) FM 6-20-20 Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for Fire Support at Battalion/Task Force and Below  
(b) FM 71-1 The Tank and Mechanized Infantry Company Team  
(c) FM 71-123 Tactics and Techniques for Combined Arms Heavy Forces: Armored Brigade, Battalion/Task Force, and Company/Team  
(d) MCWP 3-16.6 Supporting Arms Observer, Spotter, Controller  
(e) MCWP 3-16 Techniques and Procedures for Fire Support Coordination  
(f) JtDivO P3120.23 SOP for Fire Support Coordination

Encl: (1) FSCEX I Overlay

1. **LESSON TITLE.** FIRE SUPPORT COORDINATION EXERCISE I (FSCEX I)

2. **TRAINING OBJECTIVE.** Integration of close air support and indirect fires in support of company-level ground maneuver.

a. **Task.** Develop and execute a company-level fire support plan in support of a hasty attack, integrating artillery fires, mortar fires, fixed-wing close air support (FWCAS), and rotary-wing close air support (RWCAS).

b. **Condition.** The company conducts a movement to contact in a mechanized environment, during which it makes contact with an enemy position. The exercise is conducted as a Tactical Exercise Without Troops (TEWT), with the company represented by its Fire Support Team (FiST) and a one-vehicle maneuver element. The company is supported by a mortar section, an artillery battery, and both FWCAS and RWCAS. The infantry battalion Fire Support Coordination Center (FSCC) provides support and conducts fire support coordination. The company and infantry battalion FSCC operate within established safety regulations found in the CAX Safety Handout, and administrative guidance contained in this lesson plan.

c. **Purpose.** FSCEX I provides the company FiST the opportunity to apply the instruction contained in the Supporting Arms Integration Course and FiST Procedures Class, and builds on FiST training conducted during the Air Support Coordination Exercises.

d. **Training Standards**

(1) **MCO 3501.3B Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation System; Volume II, Infantry Units**

(a) MPS 2A.7, Fire Support

(b) MPS 2A.8, Immediate Close Air Support

**(2) MCO 3501.6C Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation System,  
Volume V, Artillery Units**

- (a) MPS 5A.1, Tactical Operations
- (b) MPS 5A.3, Firing Battery, Initial Lay
- (c) MPS 5A.4, Firing Battery, General
- (d) MPS 5A.5, Fire Direction
- (e) MPS 5A.6, Forward Observer, General
- (f) MPS 5A.7, Forward Observer, Fire Mission
- (g) MPS 5A.8, Forward Observer, Fire Support Coordination
- (h) MPS 5A.9, Communications
- (i) MPS 5A.10, Equipment
- (j) MPS 5A.11, Logistics

**(3) MCO 3501.3B Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation System;  
Volume X, Part A, Tank Units**

- (a) MPS 10B.3, Maneuver
- (b) MPS 10B.4, Fire Support

**(4) MCO 3501.3B Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation System;  
Volume X, Part B, Light Armored Reconnaissance Units**

- (a) MPS 10B.3, Maneuver
- (b) MPS 10B.4, Fire Support
- (c) MPS 10B.5, Immediate Close Air Support

**3. ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS**

a. FSCEX I is a live-fire TEWT. The following elements will participate to represent maneuver companies, their maneuver elements, the infantry battalion FSCE, and indirect fire agencies.

(1) Infantry Battalion FSCE

(2) Infantry Company

(a) The company FiST, mounted in an AAVP7

(b) One vehicle to represent a maneuver platoon – an AAVP7 or M1A1 tank.

(3) Tank Company

(a) The company FiST, mounted in two M1A1 tanks.

(b) One vehicle to represent a maneuver platoon – an AAVP7 or M1A1 tank.

(4) Light Armored Reconnaissance (LAR) Company

(a) The company FiST, mounted in a maximum of two LAVs.

(b) One LAV to represent a maneuver platoon.

(c) The LAR company's organic mortar section.

(5) One of the infantry battalion's 81mm mortar sections, mounted in AAVs or HMMWVs. This section will be placed in direct support of the battalion's companies as they conduct the exercise.

(6) One artillery battery.

b. FSCEX I is conducted in the QUACKENBUSH LAKE training area. With the exception of the company on Range 400 on the morning of FSCEX I, all participating elements of the infantry battalion and LAR company should occupy an assembly area in WOODS CANYON (NU705110) the night prior to the exercise to ensure that the exercise commences on time. Additionally, this allows the company FiSTs to conduct planning and coordination with the infantry battalion FSCC. The company commander and FiST of the company conducting Range 400 on the day of FSCEX I will move to the FSCEX I immediately after the Range 400 debriefs are completed, and will participate in the last run of the exercise.

c. FSCEX I begins with an orientation conducted by TTECG for the infantry battalion FSCC, company commanders, and company FiSTs. The orientation will be held at the LD (6961113). TTECG will review the training objectives and confirm the exercise schedule. During the orientation, the exercise force will provide the frequencies/net IDs for the battalion tactical net, company tactical nets, the mortar conduct of fire net, and the artillery conduct of fire net.

d. **FSCEX I Schedule**

(1) The following is the timeline for FSCEX I:

0700-Orientation at 696113  
0730-0900 LAR Co  
0900-1030 HAC Co  
1030-1100 Debrief  
1100-1230 Tank Co  
1230-1400 Inf Co  
1400-1430 Debrief  
1430-1600 Range 400 Co

(2) Strict adherence to the timeline is critical. Each company's live-fire period is tied closely to the station times for aviation support. Failure to be on time drastically reduces the amount of training available to subsequent companies.

e. **Course Execution**

(1) Immediately prior to crossing LD, the TTECG Maneuver representative will link-up with the lead company FiST and conduct a radio check on the battalion or company tactical net. Another TTECG representative will link-up with the one-vehicle maneuver element.

(2) At some point after crossing LD, the lead company will make contact with the enemy position. The enemy position will be supported by an air defense system in a separate position. The TTECG Maneuver Representative will indicate the active enemy targets to the company FiST.

(3) After making contact, the company should position its supporting mortar section and proceed with its FiST battle drill. The objective is to develop a fire support "package" for conducting a hasty attack on the enemy position – integrating the available artillery, mortars, FWCAS, and RWCAS– and then maneuver the one-vehicle maneuver element into a support-by-fire position under these fires.

(4) After the fire support "package" is completed and the one-vehicle maneuver element has occupied its support-by-fire position the lead company's portion of the exercise is complete.

f. There will be no direct fires during FSCEX I.

4. **ARTILLERY/FIRE SUPPORT**

a. One artillery battery, one of the infantry battalion's mortar sections and the LAR company's mortar section will participate in FSCEX I.

(1) The artillery battery will occupy its firing position the night prior to the exercise, and will establish communications with the infantry battalion's FSICC and be prepared to accept fire missions not later than 0600 on the day of the exercise. The battery firing position will be in the vicinity of NU7107. Check rounds will be conducted by the TTECG Artillery Representative prior to the exercise beginning.

(2) The mortar sections will begin the exercise mounted, and occupy firing positions at the direction of the company they are supporting.

b. The infantry battalion's FSICC must be operational during FSCEX I, and fully capable of providing continuous communications and mission clearance on all fire support nets. Positive clearance from the battalion FSC is required for all missions

during its company's portions of the exercise. SILENCE IS NOT CONSENT. All re-attacks for RWCAS and FWCAS must also be cleared by the FSC.

c. The LAR company will clear its own fires during its portion of the exercise.

d. There are no constructive (notional) fire missions for indirect fire agencies. However, due to ammunition limitations, representative rounds are permitted. Each firing unit will fire at least one round per Fire-for-Effect, and one round for each adjustment requested by the observer. Fires requested for a specific duration in support of maneuver will be represented by the firing of a minimum of first and last rounds. When conducting SEAD missions, at a minimum, the marking round and first and last rounds of suppression will be fired to facilitate the timing of suppression and CAS.

## 5. **AIR SUPPORT**

### a. **Offensive Air Support**

(1) All aviation support should be fragged as required.

(2) Live ordnance is preferred.

(3) Plan Holding Areas (HAs), Battle Positions (BPs), and Airspace Coordination Areas (ACAs) as required.

(4) All CAS missions will be requested via an immediate Joint Tactical Air Request (JTAR) and terminally controlled by a ground FAC.

(5) Each company will have the opportunity to employ both RWCAS and FWCAS. One section of RWCAS and one section of FWCAS are required to support a standard FSCEX I. The ACE should, therefore, plan to support FSCEX I with 5 sections of FWCAS, 5 sections of RWCAS, and associated tanker support.

(6) The Air Combat Element (ACE) will produce an Air Tasking Order (ATO) to support FSCEX I using the guidelines provided by the air representative. The ACE will schedule tanker support to enable FWCAS to complete a 1.0 hour to 1.3 hour time on station.

(7) CAS aircraft will brief a secondary air-to-ground mission in the LAVIC LAKE training area in the event they are not fully utilized by the ground FAC. LAVIC LAKE training area is exclusively scheduled for the secondary mission. The ACE will publish an alternate target for the execution of the secondary missions. The ACE will be provided a LAVIC LAKE target list by the TTECG Air Representative. Aircraft approval from the Direct Air Support Center (DASC) to execute their secondary mission, and a clearing pass of the target is required.

b. **Air Control**

(1) The ACE will man a functional Tactical Air Control Center (TACC) in order to manage the air frag.

(2) The ACE will position and man a fully functional DASC at OP LEFT (NU672090) to coordinate all air support.

(3) Strip alert aircraft will be launched by the DASC upon receipt of an immediate JTAR.

6. **SAFETY**

a. Road guards will be posted as follows.

(1) Post 1: NU668090

(2) Post 2: NU728115

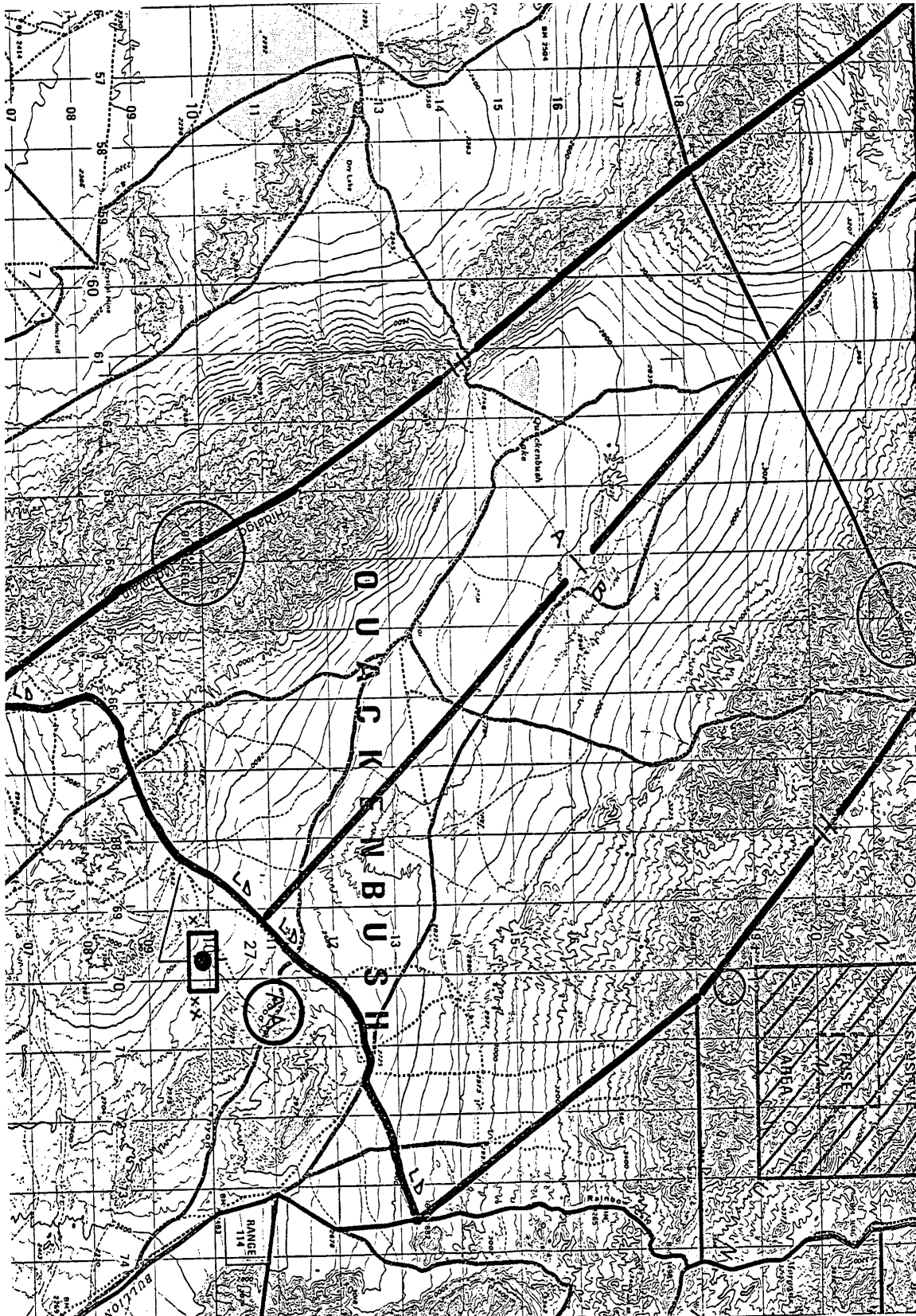
(3) Post 3: NU739088

b. The Exercise Force will ensure a range sweep is conducted prior to the ranges being placed in a “hot” status, and that the **ranges are placed in a “hot” status not later than 0630**. The range sweep can be conducted by either helicopter or wheeled vehicle, but an aerial range sweep is preferred due to expediency.

c. The Exercise Force is responsible for safe conduct of all phases of the FSCEX. A Range Safety Officer (RSO)/Laser Range Safety Officer (LRSO), who can have no other tactical duties as part of the Exercise Force, will be appointed. The RSO/LRSO will maintain positive communications with range control (BEARMAT) on frequency 49.85 at all times. In addition, he will maintain an internal EXERCISE SAFETY NET to maintain positive communications with all road guards, firing agencies, and appropriate level COCs at all times. The RSO/LRSO will establish, control and monitor the EXERCISE SAFETY NET prior to and during the exercise, and until such time as the range is declared “cold” at exercise completion. If communications with BEARMAT is lost, the RSO/LRSO will immediately place all fire agencies into a CHECK FIRING status until communications with BEARMAT can be re-established. If communications with the road guards, COC, or any firing agency is lost on the EXERCISE SAFETY NET, the RSO/LRSO will immediately place all firing agencies into a CHECK FIRING status until communication can be re-established.

d. Red pyrotechnics stop all fire and movement.





**Enclosure 1. FSCEX I Overlay**

**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**  
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**FIRE SUPPORT COORDINATION EXERCISE II (FSCEX II)**

- Ref:
- (a) FM 6-20-20 Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for Fire Support at Battalion/Task Force and Below
  - (b) FM 13-1 Combined Arms Breaching Operations
  - (c) FM 71-1 The Tank and Mechanized Infantry Company Team
  - (d) FM 71-123 Tactics and Techniques for Combined Arms Heavy Forces:  
Armored Brigade, Battalion/Task Force, and Company/Team
  - (e) FM 71-2 The Tank and Mechanized Infantry Company Team
  - (f) FM 90-13-1 Combined Arms Breaching Operations
  - (g) JtDivO P3120.23 SOP for Fire Support Coordination
  - (h) MCWP 3-1 Ground Combat Operations
  - (i) MCWP 3-11.4 Fundamentals of Helicopter Operations
  - (j) MCWP 3-12 Employment of USMC Tanks
  - (k) MCWP 3-13 Employment of Amphibious Assault Vehicles
  - (l) MCWP 3-14 Employment of Light Armored Reconnaissance
  - (m) MCWP 3-16 Techniques and Procedures for Fire Support Coordination
  - (n) MCWP 3-16.6 Supporting Arms Observer, Spotter, Controller
  - (o) MCWP 3-17.3 Breaching Operations

1. **LESSON TITLE.** FIRE SUPPORT COORDINATION EXERCISE II (FSCEX II)

2. **TRAINING OBJECTIVE.** Rehearse the MAGTF's operations order for the deliberate attack phase of the Final Exercise (FINEX).

a. **Task.** Typical tasks for this phase of FINEX are a battalion-level deliberate breach and attack on an enemy strongpoint, a company-size helicopterborne operation, and a security or offensive mission with the MAGTF's Light Armored Reconnaissance (LAR) company.

b. **Condition.** The MAGTF will be task-organized with a battalion task force, LAR company, artillery battalion, engineer platoon or company, combat service support detachment, and elements of a Marine Aircraft Group (MAG). The MAGTF will conduct the exercise as a Tactical Exercise Without Troops (TEWT). The MAGTF will operate within established safety regulations found in the CAX Safety Handout, and administrative guidance contained in this lesson plan.

c. **Purpose.** FSCEX II provides the MAGTF the opportunity to rehearse and refine its operation order for the deliberate attack phase of FINEX.

d. **Training Standards.**

**(1) MCO 3501.3B Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation System;  
Volume II, Infantry Units**

- (a) MPS 2A.2, Intelligence
- (b) MPS 2A.4, Communications
- (c) MPS 2A.6, Operate a Command Post
- (d) MPS 2A.7, Fire Support
- (e) MPS 2A.8, Immediate Close Air Support
- (f) MPS 2A.10, Attack
- (g) MPS 2A.11, Consolidate
- (h) MPS 2A.12, Link-Up Operations

**(2) MCO 3501.6C Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation System,  
Volume V, Artillery Units**

- (a) MPS 5B.2, Headquarters Battery Tactical Operations
- (b) MPS 5B.3, Battalion Operations
- (c) MPS 5B.4, Fire Direction
- (d) MPS 5B.5, Fire Support Coordination
- (e) MPS 5B.6, Naval Gunfire Spotter, General
- (f) MPS 5B.7, Naval Gunfire Spotter, Fire Mission
- (g) MPS 5B.8, Naval Gunfire Spotter, Fire Support Coordination
- (h) MPS 5B.9, Survey
- (i) MPS 5B.10, Target Acquisition
- (j) MPS 5B.11, Meteorology
- (k) MPS 5B.12, Communications
- (l) MPS 5B.13, Command and Control
- (m) MPS 5B.14, Logistics

**(3) MCO 3501.3B Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation System;  
Volume X, Part B, Light Armored Reconnaissance Units**

- (a) MPS 10B.1, Command and Control
- (b) MPS 10B.3, Maneuver
- (c) MPS 10B.4, Fire Support
- (d) MPS 10B.5, Immediate Close Air Support
- (e) MPS 10B.6, Mobility and Survivability

**3. ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS**

a. FSCEX II is a live-fire TEWT. The following elements will participate to represent the MAGTF, its maneuver elements, and indirect fire agencies.

- (1) MAGTF Combat Operations Center
- (2) Battalion Combat Operations Center

(3) Company FiSTs, mounted in AAVs, tanks or LAVs, as appropriate. The helicopterborne unit will be foot-mobile and inserted into its designated Landing Zone (LZ) by helicopter.

(4) Battalion mortar platoon, mounted in AAVs or HMMWVs. Any mortar platoon/section attached to the helicopterborne unit will be foot-mobile and inserted into the designated LZ by helicopter with the helicopterborne unit's FiST.

(5) LAR company mortar section.

(6) One vehicle each to represent Heavy Machinegun/TOW sections operating as independent maneuver elements of the MAGTF or infantry battalion.

(7) Engineer Obstacle Clearing Detachments (OCDs)

(8) All reconnaissance and surveillance teams and electronic warfare teams required to support the MAGTF's and infantry battalion's Reconnaissance and Surveillance Plans.

(9) The artillery battalion and its firing batteries, including firing unit(s) designated to represent naval surface fire support. The artillery battalion has the option of employing its organic Counter Battery Radar assets (CBR).

**b. MAGTF Brief**

(1) The MAGTF staff, battalion staff, and LAR company commander will brief their operations orders and fire support plans prior to H-Hour. The location and time of the brief will be determined prior to the exercise based on the exercise scenario and the MAGTF scheme of maneuver.

(2) The brief should be as concise as possible, and will be conducted as follows:

**(a) MAGTF Staff Briefs**

(1) The S-2 will brief reconnaissance and surveillance team and electronic warfare team grid locations, the MAGTF Reconnaissance and Surveillance Plan, and the enemy situation.

(2) The S-3 will brief the MAGTF's mission

(3) The MAGTF commander will brief his intent.

(4) The S-3 will brief the scheme of maneuver.

(5) The Fire Support Coordinator (FSC) will brief the fire support plan and all restrictive fire support coordination measures.

(6) The air officer will brief the overall Air Tasking Order (ATO).

(b) Infantry Battalion Staff Briefs

(1) The S-2 will brief reconnaissance and surveillance team grid locations, the battalion Reconnaissance and Surveillance Plan, and the enemy situation in the battalion's sector.

(2) The battalion commander will brief his intent.

(3) The S-3 will brief the scheme of maneuver.

(4) The FSC will brief the fire support plan and all restrictive fire support coordination measures.

(c) The LAR company commander will brief his scheme of maneuver and fire support plan.

(3) The Exercise Force must confirm that positive communication is maintained with all reconnaissance and surveillance teams, electronic warfare teams, communications retrans teams, and other units operating forward of the Forward Line Of Troops (FLOT). The Exercise Force will establish appropriate, restrictive fire support coordination measures to protect these teams from the effects of fires.

(4) All staff members and company commanders will attend the brief. The Helicopterborne Unit Commander (HUC) is an exception – his FiST and any attached mortars will start the exercise at the designated Pickup Zone (PZ).

c. Reconnaissance and surveillance teams, communications retrans teams, electronic warfare teams and other units operating forward of the FLOT must be in position prior to the exercise beginning. Ensure that reconnaissance and surveillance teams and electronic warfare teams are inserted with the assigned controllers. Confirmed grid coordinates for teams operating forward of the FLOT must be established to protect these teams from the effects of fires. Scout-sniper and reconnaissance teams can adjust artillery, naval surface fire support, and mortar fires. Scout-sniper and reconnaissance teams cannot control close air support (CAS) missions unless they have a qualified Forward Air Controller (FAC). No teams are authorized in the Sunshine Peak training area.

d. There will be no direct fires during FSCEX II.

4. **ARTILLERY/FIRE SUPPORT**

a. The artillery battalion and its firing batteries will participate in FSCEX II. The battalion's organic CBR assets are often employed. The infantry battalion's mortar

platoon and the LAR company's mortar section will also participate. The Exercise Force may designate an artillery firing unit to represent naval surface fire support.

b. Positive clearance from the infantry battalion FSC is required for all fire missions in the battalion's zone of action. Positive clearance from the MAGTF FSC is required for all fire missions outside the battalion's zone of action. **SILENCE IS NOT CONSENT.** All re-attacks for rotary-wing CAS (RWCAS) and fixed-wing CAS (FWCAS) must also be cleared by the appropriate FSC.

c. There are no constructive (notional) fire missions for indirect fire agencies. However, due to ammunition limitations, representative rounds are permitted. Each firing unit will fire at least one round per Fire-for-Effect, and one round for each adjustment requested by the observer. Fires requested for a specific duration in support of maneuver will be represented by the firing of a minimum first and last rounds. When conducting SEAD missions, at a minimum, the marking round and first and last rounds of suppression will be fired to facilitate the timing of suppression and CAS.

d. The battalion will receive 20 minutes of M825 smoke in support of its deliberate breach. Due to ammunition limitations, this can be represented by one round to adjust height of burst, and a first and last round to represent the duration of fire.

## **5. AIR SUPPORT**

### **a. Offensive Air Support**

(1) All CAS support should be requested via Joint Tactical Air Request (JTAR), using the guideline of a minimum of 4 sorties RWCAS and 10 sorties FWCAS.

(2) FAC(A) support should also be requested via JTAR, as required.

(3) The Air Combat Element (ACE) will schedule tanker support to extend FWCAS time on station.

(4) The precise window for air support will be determine by the exercise force.

(5) Live ordnance is preferred.

(6) Plan Holding Areas (HAs), Battle Positions (BPs), and Airspace Coordination Areas (ACAs), as required.

### **b. Assault Support**

(1) A company TEWT cell will conduct a helicopterborne assault.

(2) The ACE should plan the following aircraft to support the helicopterborne assault.

- (a) ASC(A) – one aircraft.
- (b) Transport – one aircraft (represents mission helicopters)
- (c) Escort – optional

c. **Air Control**

(1) The ACE will man a functional Tactical Air Control Center (TACC) in order to manage the air frag.

(2) The ACE will position and man a fully functional DASC to coordinate all air support.

(3) CAS missions may be drawn from airborne alert, strip alert, or a combination of both.

6. **SAFETY**

a. Road guards positions will be determined prior to exercise, based on the FINEX scenario.

b. The Exercise Force will ensure a range sweep is conducted prior to the ranges being placed in a “hot” status, and that the **ranges are in a “hot” status not later than one hour prior to the designated L-Hour.** The range sweep can be conducted by either helicopter or wheeled vehicle, but an aerial range sweep is preferred due to expediency.

c. The Exercise Force is responsible for safe conduct of all phases of the FSCEX. A Range Safety Officer (RSO)/Laser Range Safety Officer (LRSO), who can have no other tactical duties as part of the Exercise Force, will be appointed. The RSO/LRSO will maintain positive communications with range control (BEARMAT) on frequency 49.85 at all times. In addition, he will maintain an internal EXERCISE SAFETY NET to maintain positive communications with all road guards, firing agencies, and appropriate level COCs at all times. The RSO/LRSO will establish, control and monitor the EXERCISE SAFETY NET prior to and during the exercise, and until such time as the range is declared “cold” at exercise completion. If communications with BEARMAT is lost, the RSO/LRSO will immediately place all fire agencies into a CHECK FIRING status until communications with BEARMAT can be re-established. If communications with the road guards, COC, or any firing agency is lost on the EXERCISE SAFETY NET, the RSO/LRSO will immediately place all firing agencies into a CHECK FIRING status until communication can be re-established.

d. Red pyrotechnics stop all fire and movement.

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**FIRE SUPPORT COORDINATION EXERCISE III (FSCEX III)**

- Ref:
- (a) FM 6-20-20 Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for Fire Support at Battalion/Task Force and Below
  - (b) FM 20-32 Mine/Countermining Operations
  - (c) FM 71-1 The Tank and Mechanized Infantry Company Team
  - (d) FM 71-123 Tactics and Techniques for Combined Arms Heavy Forces: Armored Brigade, Battalion/Task Force, and Company/Team
  - (e) FM 71-2 The Tank and Mechanized Infantry Company Team
  - (f) JtDivO P3120.23 SOP for Fire Support Coordination
  - (g) MCWP 3-1 Ground Combat Operations
  - (h) MCWP 3-12 Employment of USMC Tanks
  - (i) MCWP 3-13 Employment of Amphibious Assault Vehicles
  - (j) MCWP 3-14 Employment of Light Armored Reconnaissance
  - (k) MCWP 3-16 Techniques and Procedures for Fire Support Coordination
  - (l) MCWP 3-16.6 Supporting Arms Observer, Spotter, Controller

1. **LESSON TITLE.** FIRE SUPPORT COORDINATION EXERCISE III (FSCEX III)
2. **TRAINING OBJECTIVE.** Rehearse the MAGTF's operations order for the defense in sector phase of the Final Exercise (FINEX).
  - a. **Task.** Conduct a defense in sector.
  - b. **Condition.** The MAGTF will be task-organized with a battalion task force, LAR company, artillery battalion, engineer platoon or company, combat service support detachment, and elements of a Marine Aircraft Group (MAG). The MAGTF will conduct the exercise as a Tactical Exercise Without Troops (TEWT). The MAGTF will operate within established safety regulations found in the CAX Safety Handout, and administrative guidance contained in this lesson plan.
  - c. **Purpose.** FSCEX III provides the MAGTF the opportunity to rehearse and refine its operation order for the defense in sector phase of FINEX.



d. **Training Standards.**

(1) **MCO 3501.3B Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation System;  
Volume II, Infantry Units**

- (a) MPS 2A.2, Intelligence
- (b) MPS 2A.4, Communications
- (c) MPS 2A.6, Operate a Command Post
- (d) MPS 2A.7, Fire Support
- (e) MPS 2A.8, Immediate Close Air Support
- (f) MPS 2A.13, Passage of Lines
- (g) MPS 2A.15, Defense

(2) **MCO 3501.6C Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation System,  
Volume V, Artillery Units**

- (a) MPS 5B.2, Headquarters Battery Tactical Operations
- (b) MPS 5B.3, Battalion Operations
- (c) MPS 5B.4, Fire Direction
- (d) MPS 5B.5, Fire Support Coordination
- (e) MPS 5B.6, Naval Gunfire Spotter, General
- (f) MPS 5B.7, Naval Gunfire Spotter, Fire Mission
- (g) MPS 5B.8, Naval Gunfire Spotter, Fire Support Coordination
- (h) MPS 5B.9, Survey
- (i) MPS 5B.10, Target Acquisition
- (j) MPS 5B.11, Meteorology
- (k) MPS 5B.12, Communications
- (l) MPS 5B.13, Command and Control
- (m) MPS 5B.14, Logistics

(3) **MCO 3501.3B Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation System;  
Volume X, Part B, Light Armored Reconnaissance Units**

- (a) MPS 10B.1, Command and Control
- (b) MPS 10B.3, Maneuver
- (c) MPS 10B.4, Fire Support
- (d) MPS 10B.5, Immediate Close Air Support
- (e) MPS 10B.6, Mobility and Survivability

3. **ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS**

a. FSCEX III is a live-fire TEWT. The following elements will participate to represent the MAGTF, its maneuver elements, and indirect fire agencies.

- (1) MAGTF Combat Operations Center
- (2) Battalion Combat Operations Center
- (3) Company FiSTs, mounted in AAVs, tanks or LAVs, as appropriate.

- (4) Battalion mortar platoon, mounted in AAVs or HMMWVs.
- (5) LAR company mortar section.
- (6) One vehicle each to represent Heavy Machinegun/TOW sections operating as independent maneuver elements of the MAGTF or infantry battalion.
- (7) The engineer platoon commander, mounted in a HMMWV.
- (8) All reconnaissance and surveillance teams and electronic warfare teams required to support the MAGTF's and infantry battalion's Reconnaissance and Surveillance Plans.
- (9) The artillery battalion and its firing batteries, including firing unit(s) designated to represent naval surface fire support. The artillery battalion has the option of employing its organic Counter Battery Radar assets (CBR).

b. **MAGTF Brief**

(1) The MAGTF staff, battalion staff, and LAR company commander will brief their operations orders and fire support plans prior to the exercise beginning. The location and time of the brief will be determined prior to the exercise, based on the exercise scenario and the MAGTF scheme of maneuver.

(2) The brief should be as concise as possible, and will be conducted as follows:

(a) MAGTF Staff Briefs

(1) The S-2 will brief reconnaissance and surveillance team and electronic warfare team grid locations, the MAGTF Reconnaissance and Surveillance Plan, and the enemy situation.

(2) The S-3 will brief the MAGTF's mission.

(3) The MAGTF commander will brief his intent.

(4) The S-3 will brief the scheme of maneuver.

(5) The Fire Support Coordinator (FSC) will brief the fire support plan and all restrictive fire support coordination measures.

(6) The air officer will brief the overall Air Tasking Order (ATO).

(7) The engineer officer will brief the obstacle/barrier plan.

(b) Infantry Battalion Staff Briefs

(1) The S-2 will brief reconnaissance and surveillance team grid locations, the battalion Reconnaissance and Surveillance Plan, and the enemy situation in the battalion's sector.

(2) The battalion commander will brief his intent.

(3) The S-3 will brief the scheme of maneuver.

(4) The FSC will brief the fire support plan and all restrictive fire support coordination measures.

(c) The LAR company commander will brief his scheme of maneuver and fire support plan.

(3) The Exercise Force must confirm that positive communication is maintained with all reconnaissance and surveillance teams, electronic warfare teams, communications retrans teams, and other units operating forward of the Forward Line Of Troops (FLOT). The Exercise Force will establish appropriate, restrictive fire support coordination measures to protect these teams from the effects of fires.

(4) All staff members and company commanders will attend the brief.

c. Following the orders brief, TTECG representatives will link-up with their assigned unit commanders and accompany them to their initial positions.

d. Reconnaissance and surveillance teams, communications retrans teams, electronic warfare teams and other units operating forward of the FLOT must be in position prior to the exercise beginning. Ensure that reconnaissance and surveillance teams and electronic warfare teams are inserted with the assigned controllers. Confirmed grid coordinates for teams operating forward of the FLOT must be established to protect these teams from the effects of fires. Scout-sniper and reconnaissance teams can adjust artillery, naval surface fire support, and mortar fires. Scout-sniper and reconnaissance teams cannot control close air support (CAS) missions unless they have a qualified Forward Air Controller (FAC). No teams are authorized in the Sunshine Peak training area.

e. There will be no direct fires during FSCEX III.

f. **Down Vehicle Procedures**

(1) Should a vehicle forward of the Exercise Force's final defensive positions become inoperable during the exercise, the following actions will be taken.

(a) TTECG will halt the enemy track.

(b) The unit responsible for the vehicle will recover all personnel and sensitive equipment.

(c) The grid coordinates of the vehicle's location will be disseminated by the Exercise Force, and a 500-meter radius equipment NFA established.

(2) Once the above actions have been taken, TTECG will resume the enemy attack.

#### 4. **ARTILLERY/FIRE SUPPORT**

a. The artillery battalion and its firing batteries will participate in FSCEX III. The battalion's organic CBR assets are often employed. The infantry battalion's mortar platoon and the LAR company's mortar section will also participate. The Exercise Force may designate an artillery firing unit to represent naval surface fire support.

b. Positive clearance from the infantry battalion FSC is required for all fire missions in the battalion's sector. Positive clearance from the MAGTF FSC is required for all fire missions outside the battalion's sector. **SILENCE IS NOT CONSENT.** All re-attacks for rotary-wing CAS (RWCAS) and fixed-wing CAS (FWCAS) must also be cleared by the appropriate FSC.

c. There are no constructive (notional) fire missions for indirect fire agencies. However, due to ammunition limitations, representative rounds are permitted. Each firing unit will fire at least one round per Fire-for-Effect, and one round for each adjustment requested by the observer. Fires requested for a specific duration in support of maneuver will be represented by the firing of a minimum of first and last rounds. When conducting SEAD missions, at a minimum, the marking round and first and last rounds of suppression will be fired to facilitate the timing of suppression and CAS.

#### 5. **AIR SUPPORT**

##### a. **Offensive Air Support**

(1) All CAS support should be requested via Joint Tactical Air Request (JTAR), using the guideline of a minimum of 4 sorties RWCAS and 8 sorties FWCAS.

(2) Fixed-wing FAC(A) support is required for the first 3 hours of the exercise, and should also be requested via JTAR.

(3) The Air Combat Element (ACE) will schedule tanker support to extend FWCAS time on station.

(4) The precise window for air support will be determined by the exercise force.

(5) Live ordnance is preferred.

(6) Plan Holding Areas (HAs), Battle Positions (BPs), and Airspace Coordination Areas (ACAs), as required.

b. **Air Control**

(1) The ACE will man a functional Tactical Air Control Center (TACC) in order to manage the air frag.

(2) The ACE will position and man a fully functional DASC to coordinate all air support.

(3) CAS missions may be drawn from airborne alert, strip alert, or a combination of both.

6. **SAFETY**

a. Road guards positions will be determined prior to exercise, based on the FINEX scenario.

b. The Exercise Force will ensure a range sweep is conducted prior to the ranges being placed in a “hot” status, and that the **ranges are in a “hot” status not later than one hour prior to the designated time at which the enemy will enter the MAGTF sector.** The range sweep can be conducted by either helicopter or wheeled vehicle, but an aerial range sweep is preferred due to expediency.

c. The Exercise Force is responsible for safe conduct of all phases of the FSCEX. A Range Safety Officer (RSO)/Laser Range Safety Officer (LRSO), who can have no other tactical duties as part of the Exercise Force, will be appointed. The RSO/LRSO will maintain positive communications with range control (BEARMAT) on frequency 49.85 at all times. In addition, he will maintain an internal EXERCISE SAFETY NET to maintain positive communications with all road guards, firing agencies, and appropriate level COCs at all times. The RSO/LRSO will establish, control and monitor the EXERCISE SAFETY NET prior to and during the exercise, and until such time as the range is declared “cold” at exercise completion. If communications with BEARMAT is lost, the RSO/LRSO will immediately place all fire agencies into a CHECK FIRING status until communications with BEARMAT can be re-established. If communications with the road guards, COC, or any firing agency is lost on the EXERCISE SAFETY NET, the RSO/LRSO will immediately place all firing agencies into a CHECK FIRING status until communication can be re-established.

d. Red pyrotechnics stop all fire and movement.